

Remarks

Objections

The Examiner notes an amino acid sequence on page 4 line 24 of the specification. Applicants provide herewith a sequence listing in compliance with 37 CFR 1.821-1.825.

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 as containing non-elected subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to delete non-elected subject matter.

Rejections under 35 USC 112

Claims 1-13, 17-23 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors were in possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner argues that the construct is defined in a completely functional manner and that applicants do not provide sufficient representative examples.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Descriptions of the invention generally are found in pages 5-21 of the specification. Examples and preferred embodiments of the invention are found throughout the specification, including but not limited to the substrates, linkers, fragments, sensitizing groups linking groups and spacer groups found on pages 22-25 of the specification. Applicants maintain that the limitations of the claim are both adequately described and exemplified in the specification such that one skilled in the art would conclude that Applicants have possession of the invention.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-13, 17-23 and 27 under 35 USC 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular the Examiner notes the language of claim 1, "characterised in that cleavage at the first cleavage site forms or introduces on the chemical fragment Fr at the first cleavage site a moiety comprising a sensitising group G fragment which sensitizes the chemical fragment Fr to instrumental, e.g. mass spectroscopic, analysis." Claim 1 is also rejected for use of the phrase "e.g." Claims 11, 22, and 27 are rejected for using similar indefinite phrases. The Examiner also asserts that language in claims 2, 7, 9 and 18 is unclear.

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Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the language of the claim by employing a corresponding term "masked form," from the specification. Support for the amendment is found on page 6. The phrase "e.g." has been removed from as have the similar phrases from claims 11, 22, and 27. Claims 2, 7-9 and 11 have been canceled. Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 17.

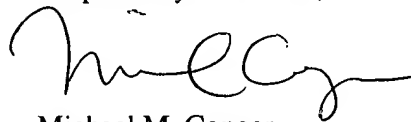
Claim Rejections 35 USC 102/103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-13, 21-23 and 27 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Carrasco et al.

As the Examiner notes, Carrasco does not disclose that cleavage of the skeleton of the construct forms the sensitizing group G which sensitizes the chemical fragment, as claimed by the applicant originally. Similarly, Carrasco does not disclose the presence of the "masked form" of the sensitizing group as described in the specification and the amended claims. Applicants' novel approach to providing a sensitizing group is in direct contrast to the methods taught in Carrasco and overcomes the limitations of the prior art. Carrasco does not teach, suggest or appreciate the present invention or its advantages.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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